

School & Court Linkages

A Periodic Newsletter of the Superintendents - Judges Liaison Committee

Issue 3, March 2001

This newsletter summarizes recent discussions of the Superintendents -Judges Liaison Committee. The Committee, created in 1995, is designed to establish a permanent liaison that will maintain open lines of communication between superintendents and judges and address issues of mutual concern.

The committee consists of eight school division superintendents and eight juvenile and domestic relations court judges, one from each of the superintendents' regions. The Virginia Association of School Superintendents appointed the superintendents. Chief Justice Harry L. Carrico invited the judges to participate.

Meetings are held twice each year. The superintendent and judge from each region also host regional meetings of superintendents and judges on a periodic basis. The Virginia Department of Education provides grant funds to support these meetings.

Prior newsletter topics include truancy reduction, search and seizure, and suicide prevention. Copies are available upon request.

Current membership:

Dr. Jo Lynne DeMary
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Mr. Robert N. Baldwin
Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia

Region I

Dr. M. LaVerne Daniels
Surry County Public Schools

The Honorable Samuel E. Campbell
Hopewell Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

Region II

Dr. Steven R. Staples
York County Public Schools

The Honorable William R. Moore, Jr.
Isle of Wight Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

Region III

Mr. Randolph Latimore, Sr.
Lancaster County Public Schools

The Honorable Maston Davis
Richmond County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court

Region IV

Mrs. Pam McGinnis
Acting Superintendent
Warren County Schools

The Honorable Jane B. Delbridge
Fairfax Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

Region V

Dr. T. Lowell Lemons
Waynesboro City Public Schools

The Honorable Kenneth W. Farrar
Lynchburg Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court

Region VI

Dr. Linda Weber
Roanoke County Public Schools

The Honorable J.P. Bounds
Roanoke Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

Region VII

Dr. Alan T. Lee
Washington County Public Schools

The Honorable J. Wesley McClintock, III
Tazewell County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

Region VIII

Dr. Margaret Blackmon
Prince Edward County Public Schools

The Honorable Michael M. Rand
Halifax Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

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Spotlight:

Special Education Services in Regional and Local Jails

Lanett Brailey, special education technical assistant at the Virginia Department of Education, provided a report on the implementation of special education in regional and local jails.

As a result of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in 1997, federal law stipulated that special education and related services be provided to all eligible students, including those students who are incarcerated in adult facilities. In Virginia, the responsibility for educating

students in regional and local jails rests with the local school division.¹ The 2000 Virginia General Assembly appropriated \$1.7 million to fund programs. *The Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia* specifies the requirements associated with educating students with disabilities in jails. The first step in implementation is development of an interagency agreement between the school division and the sheriff/jail administrator.

The Virginia Department of

Education has created a Steering Committee to assist with developing plans and materials for implementation. Committee members include superintendents, sheriffs, representatives from the Departments of Corrections and of Correctional Education, and teachers.

Contact Lanett W. Brailey at the Department of Education for more information (804) 786-0308 or lbrailey@mail.vak12ed.edu

¹ The responsibility for educating students with disabilities committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice or the Department of Corrections rests with the Department of Correctional Education. The Board of Education has responsibility for education of juveniles in regional and local detention homes, through contracts with local school divisions.

Spotlight:

Re-Enrollment of Juveniles Committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice

Drs. Sharon deFur and Louis Messier of the College of William and Mary reported on their study of the Re-enrollment Plan. The Department of Criminal Justice Services funded this study.

In 1996, the General Assembly passed legislation requiring that a plan for re-enrollment in public schools be developed for juveniles committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice Services. In 1997, the Departments of Juvenile Justice, Education, and Correctional Education developed a re-enrollment process, including a re-enrollment plan form. The process was

designed to share critical student educational information among the three agencies and plan for the student's re-enrollment upon release.

Drs. deFur and Messier's study found that the re-enrollment plan is rarely completed and communicated in a timely manner among the parties. Barriers to completion include staff failure to complete the form and forward the information, time restrictions, and lack of interagency collaboration. However, the study affirmed the value of the re-enrollment plan and process for serving as a single record regarding the child's education and that, if

completed and used, would facilitate the child's education while committed to the state and re-enrollment in public school upon return.

Contact Dr. Sharon deFur at 757-221-2150 or at shdefu@facstaff.wm.edu for further information.